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October 1, 2004

New Hampshire Success Story Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP helps New Hampshire landowners who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources solve problems on their farms. These threatened areas include barnyards, cropland, grazing land and forestland. Financial and technical assistance available through EQIP help producers install structural conservation practices and implement conservation practices such as nutrient and pest management, and prescribed grazing.

New Hampshire producers have shown a keen interest in the EQIP program. During fiscal year 2004, 90 contracts were funded which totaled \$1,788,159.

When Arthur Jenks, a beginner farmer, contacted NRCS with manure management concerns on his small beef cattle operation, Soil Conservationist Brooke Stubbs discussed the EQIP program with him and how it might enhance his operation. Mr. Jenks decided to address his largest and most serious natural resource problems first. With EQIP funding Mr. Jenks was able to address water quality problems in his barnyard, by constructing a combination waste storage and composting facility and a heavy use area around the barn. He also installed practices to collect, control and dispose of runoff from the barn so that clean water is not contaminated by animal waste.



The next resource concern to be addressed on his farm will be improvement of the quality of grazing lands and availability of livestock water. Mr. Jenks' contract includes prescribed grazing to provide increased forage production in his pastures while improving soil quality and reducing soil erosion. His contract also includes a water distribution system that facilitates prescribed grazing and reduces soil damage due to livestock concentration.

Because of Mr. Jenks' involvement with NRCS and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) he is closer to realizing his dream of becoming a full time farmer with an efficient sustainable operation.



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